



Serial No. 10/051,616

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for collecting stocking data for a restaurant ~~from~~ via a hand-held computer and transmitting the stocking data to a data center, the method comprising the steps of:

removing the hand-held computer from a cradle at the restaurant;

receiving the stocking data ~~a first data set~~, while the ~~independent~~ removed hand-held computer is operating in an off-line mode;

storing the ~~first~~ stocking data set, in response to a determination that the receipt of the ~~first~~ stocking data set is complete;

establishing a communication link between the hand-held computer and ~~with the~~ data center, in response to a determination that the independent hand-held computer has been returned to the cradle ~~functionally connected to the data center~~, thereby placing the ~~independent~~ hand-held computer in an on-line mode;

transmitting the ~~first~~ stocking data set to the data center via the communication link, while the independent hand-held computer is operating in an on-line mode; and

displaying an indication that transmission of the stocking data to the data center is in progress,

wherein the data center is operative to transmit the stocking data to a restaurant supplier that supplies the restaurant based on the stocking data.

2. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of transmitting a ~~second data set~~ standard restaurant supply order from the data center to the ~~independent~~ hand-held computer, while the ~~independent~~ hand-held computer is operating in ~~an~~ the on-line mode.

3. (currently amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein ~~the second data set is a standard order~~ receiving the stocking data comprises modifying the standard restaurant supply order according to current needs of the restaurant.

4. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1 2, wherein the data center is further operable to connect a plurality of second restaurants to a plurality of second restaurant suppliers ~~second data set is a program module.~~

5. (currently amended) The method of Claim 4 2, wherein each of the plurality of second restaurants uses an individualized version of the hand-held computer for receiving stocking orders and a cradle for establishing communication with the data center ~~the data center receives the second data set from a remote data processing system.~~

6. (currently amended) The method of Claim 5, wherein the data center is further operative to transmit the received stocking orders ~~first data set~~ to a remote data processing systems at the plurality of second restaurant suppliers.

7. (currently amended) The method of Claim 5 4, wherein the data center is coupled to a remote data processing system that provides a clearinghouse for the plurality of second restaurant suppliers ~~functional connection between the hand held computer and the data center is a telephone connection.~~

8. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of receiving the stocking data further comprises associating the stocking data with an employee of restaurant who uses the hand-held computer ~~functional connection between the hand held computer and the data center is an internet connection.~~

9. (currently amended) The method of Claim 8 6, further comprising the step of configuring a touch-activated display on the hand-held computer to render visual output in one of four supported orientations according to user preference ~~wherein the data center is functionally connected to the remote data processing center over a telephone connection.~~

10. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1 6, wherein the data center is further operative to:

aggregate the stocking data with other stocking data from other restaurants;

consolidate the aggregated stocking data;

format the aggregated stocking data according to a format requirement of the restaurant supplier; and

store a data transmission profile for the restaurant supplier, wherein transmitting the stocking data to the restaurant supplier comprises transmitting the formatted stocking data according to the transmission profile ~~functionally connected to the remote data processing center over an internet connection.~~

11-20. (cancelled)

21. (new) The method of Claim 1, wherein the hand-held computer comprises an ambidextrous grip channel, extending along substantially an entire edge of the hand-held computer, that accommodates a user's thumb.

22. (new) A method for ordering food supplies, comprising the steps of:
receiving, at a hand-held computer docked in a cradle at a restaurant, a predetermined food supply order from a data processing center;
placing the hand-held computer in an off-line mode;
removing the hand-held computer from the cradle;
transporting the off-line hand-held computer through a supply area of the restaurant;
adapting the predetermined food supply order according to an inventory of the supply area in response to incrementing or decrementing a quantity of a line item on the predetermined food supply order;
returning the hand-held computer to the cradle and placing the hand-held computer in an on-line mode; and
in response to the returning step, transmitting the adapted food supply order to the data processing center that:
stores data transmission profiles for a plurality of food distributors;
aggregates and consolidates the adapted food supply order with food supply orders of other restaurants; and
formats and transmits the aggregated and consolidated food supply orders to a food distributor of the plurality of food distributors according to one of the stored data transmission profiles.

23. (new) The method of Claim 22, wherein the data processing center further stores transmission histories and validates the adapted food supply order.

24. (new) The method of Claim 22, wherein the data processing center is coupled to a data processing system that functions as a clearinghouse for the plurality of food distributors.

25. (new) The method of Claim 22, wherein the receiving step comprises receiving inventory data.

26. (new) The method of Claim 22, wherein the transporting step comprises receiving a user's thumb with an ambidextrous groove on the hand-held computer.

27. (new) The method of Claim 22, further comprising the step of viewing a display of the hand-held computer through a window in the cradle while the hand-held computer is docked.

28. (new) The method of Claim 27, further comprising the step of showing on the display a graphic that indicates progress of transmitting the adapted food supply order to the data processing center.

29. (new) The method of Claim 22, further comprising the step of assigning accountability for the adapted food supply order to an employee of the restaurant that enters an identification code into the hand-held computer.

30. (new) The method of Claim 29, further comprising the step of configuring a touch-activated display on the hand-held computer to render visual output in one of at least two possible orientations according to whether the employee is right-handed or left-handed.